and could never afterwards continue in any other Posture, without great Strugglings, or sinking down to the Bottom of the Vessel. Which may serve to shew how nicely and wonderfully the Bodies of Fishes are balanced, for the keeping them in an horizontal Position; since in this Case the losing a few Grains of the Tail could so sensibly destroy the Equilibrium, as to render the rest of its Fins almost useless.

I dare not however assert it will happen thus to all sorts of Fish on cutting off the Tail; nor does it to the Roach immediately: For as it is a Posture very unnatural and troublesome to Fishes, they exert all their Strength to prevent their Heads from sinking downwards; until, being wearied out, they at last are forced to submit. I remain,

Dear Sir,

Norwich, April 14. 1748.

Your most obedient Servant,

W. Arderon.

IX. *A Letter from Mr.* Robert Roche *to the* President, *of a* Fustian Frock *being set on Fire by* Electricity.

Honoured Sir, *London, May* 17, 1749.

Read May 19. 1747.

IF your Goodness will excuse the Liberty a Stranger has taken in giving you this Trouble, hoping the following Account will

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will atone for his Boldneſs, I ſhall think myſelf greatly favoured.

I have a Son about 16 Years old, that has been for 6 or 7 Years paſt troubled with ſudden Fits that intirely take away his Senſes. I got him all the Helps I could, but to no purpoſe; at laſt I ſent him to St. *Bartholomew*'s Hoſpital, as an Out-Patient; and there he was turn'd out as incurable. So finding his Caſe deſperate, I conſidered the Power of Electricity, and made a large Machine for Electrifying; and afterwards ſhocking him commonly twice a Day, he has received ſome Benefit: And laſt *Sunday*, being *May* 15, he being on the Pedeſtal, and very high electrified, and having on a coarſe Fuſtian working Frock, the condenſing Phial being on the Conductor, and I, touching him to procure Snaps as uſual, touched his right Shoulder Blade; and, to my great Surprize, the furzy Flax of the Frock caught Fire, with a great Blaze, and burnt the whole Breadth and Length of the Shoulder, the Flame riſing 6 Inches above the Collar, and I believe would have ſet the Frock on Fire, had I not put it out with my Hands. There was no Fire in the Room that Day: This was about Noon; neither was there any thing that could have any inflammable Vapour there.

My Surprize was the greater, becauſe all I read on that Subject ſays nothing will burn but what ſends forth ſuch Vapours.

At 9 the ſame Evening I made him put on the ſame Frock, and touch'd the left Arm, where the Flax had not been burnt before; and it had the ſame Effect as above.

Sir,

Sir, if any further Account of the above will be acceptable to you, or the *Royal Society*, if you pleaſe to command I will wait on you. There are Alterations in my Machine I think for the better; and ſome new Experiments too long to write, fearing it would be too troubleſome; from

Your humble and obedient Servant,

R. Roche.

X. *A Letter from* John Huxham *M. D. F. R. S. to* C. Mortimer *Secr. R. S. concerning a* Child *born with an* extraordinary Tumour *near the* Anus, *containing ſome Rudiments of an Embryo in it.*

Dear Sir,

Read May 19. 1748. THE following Caſe was lately communicated to me by Mr. *Alexander Wills*, an experienced and ingenious Surgeon and Man-Midwife, of *Kingsbridge*. It ſeems to have ſomething particular and remarkable. If you think ſo (on Peruſal) you may be ſo good as to lay it before the *Royal Society*. I am,

SIR,

Plimouth, Dec. 12. 1746.

Your much obliged, and moſt obedient humble Servant,

J. Huxham.